

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001986 TOSEC 130159

EXDIS: ALSO PASS TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST

FOLLOWING REPEAT BUCHAREST 0020 ACTION SECSTATE 04 JAN 78

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0020

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AGGREY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RO US

SUBJECT: DATES FOR CEAUSESCU'S VISIT

REF: (A) 77 STATE 305396, (B) 77 STATE 283137

1. DURING CEAUSESCU'S YEAR-END RECEPTION FOR DIPLOMATIC
CORPS DECEMBER 30, FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU ASKED ME TO
INQUIRE RE STATUS OF DATES FOR PRESIDENT'S SPRING VISIT TO
U.S. HE SAID HE WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM CEAUSESCU TO
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ARRANGE TIMING FOR FIRST SEMESTER'S FOREIGN VISIT, AND THESE
WERE IN SUSPENSE PENDING DETERMINATION OF TIMING FOR
WASHINGTON. I REPLIED THAT AMBASSADOR NICOLAE HAD BEEN
ASSURED DECEMBER 21 (REF A) THAT MATTER WAS UNDER ACTIVE
REVIEW, BUT THAT I WOULD CONVEY HIS REQUEST.

2. DURING BRIEF PRIVATE EXCHANGE FOLLOWING FORMAL SPEECH

CEAUSCESCU DID NOT RAISE MATTER OF DATES BUT SAID MERELY HE HOPED THAT 1978 WOULD MARK NEW DEPARTURE IN ROMANIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND THAT THEY WOULD REACH UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL OF ACTIVITY. I SAID I WAS WORKING TOWARD GOAL OF INCREASING CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS. CEAUSCESCU ASKED THAT HIS WARMEST WISHES FOR 1978 BE CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND WHOPL AMERICAN PEOPLE.

3. IN EVENT THAT DATE FOR THE OTHER EAST EUROPEAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON MAY NOW BE CLARIFIED, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR RELATIONS WITH GOR AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME IF PROPOSED DATES COULD BE CONVEYED TO CEAUSCESCU IN NEAR FUTURE. I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY THEM THROUGH MACOVESCU, SINCE HE ASKED (AMBASSADOR NICOLAE COULD BE INFORMED SHORTLY THEREAFTER), AND SINCE IT WOULD PROVIDE TIMELY OCCASION TO STRESS IMPETUS FOR RESOLVING PROBLEMS IN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS, INCLUDING EMIGRATION PROBLEMS, WHICH VISIT SHOULD PROVIDE. I WOULD PLAN TO UNDERLINE THIS URGENCY ALSO TO PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR VASILE PUNGAN, WHO HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO VISIT U.S. AFTER JANUARY 29, AND TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ION PATAN, WITH WHOM I AM HAVING HALF-DAY ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL WORKING SESSION DURING JANUARY.

AGGREY
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER".
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